

The Anglers Delight:

Containing

The whole ART of Neat and Clean

ANGLING;

Wherein is Taught the readiest Way to
Take all sorts of FISH, from the Pike to
the Minnow, together with their proper
Baits, Haunts, and Time of FISHING
for them, whether in Mere, Pond, or River.

As also, The Method of Fishing in Hackney
River, & the Names of all the Best Stands
there; with the manner of Making all sorts
of Good Tackle Fit for any Water what-
soever. The like never before in Print.

By WILLIAM GILBERT, Gent.



London, Printed for W. Birch at the Pen and
at the Lower end of Cheapside, 1676.

Anglers' Companion

Containing

the Art of Fishing in Rivers, Lakes, and Ponds

ANGLING

and the most complete and accurate
Treatise of Fish, from the first to
the last, together with their proper
Baits, Seasons, and Time of FISHING
for them, whether in Rivers, Lakes, or Ponds.



By JOHN JENNINGS, Esq.
Author of the 'Angler's Companion',
and other works on the subject of
Angling. The second edition, with
additions and corrections.

LONDON: Printed by J. JOHNSON, in Pall-mall.



Price 1s. 6d. per copy, bound in paper.
Sold by all Booksellers.

T O T H E
RIGHT HONOURABLE,
and Worthily Admired

Sr. *RICHARD FISHER.*

SInce it is Generally known, that no Man lives without Fault; but that We all Transgress daily, even against Our Sovereign Good, from whom notwithstanding, we Receive Innumerable Benefits, with large Promises of Forgiveness: So in this Case, I have a Matter of Encouragement, that, although I may have of-
A 3 fended,

The Epistle

sended, thus rashly appearing, to offer These following Lines to Your view, (no wayes to be compared to Your Great, and Masculine Spirit;) yet that I should not doubt of Your Obliviating this my present Offence; but also obtain (from Your Real Generosity) a Favourable Acceptation, and Reception of these first Fruits of my publick *Endeavours*: I have taken the Boldness to make this *Dedication*, hoping that my Presumption (taken as an Error) may be understood to proceed from the Assurance of Countenance, under so worthy a Personage; where
by

Dedictory.

by it may more safely appear
upon the Stage of the World,
encounter the greatest Op-
positions, and rest Secure
from the Cruelty of Envy.

The Great God, who hath
hitherto Blessed You with
Health and Means, continue
the same, and multiply it to
Your last Period: and when
You shall Cease to be among
the Living, give You the full
Fruition of Eternal Glory;
So wisheth,

SIR,

*A Real Honourer of You,
and all Your Worthy Family.*

W. Gilbert.



To all the Ingenious
LOVERS & PRACTICERS
Of the most Noble Science of
A N G L I N G.

Kind Reader,

I Know (and you know)
that the Wits of this Age
are Ripe, Accute, and
Various, and how to
please all Men, is a Task too
great for my Undertaking; I
have here laid open the whole
Art and Mistry of Clean,
Neat, and Gentile Angling,
in a far more Plain, and Easie
way,

The Preface.

way, than ever was yet in Print ;
All from Experience, and not
Borrowed from other Books,
and many Things never be-
fore heard of, by most Peo-
ple : So that, if there be any
Thing that may yield you Pro-
fit, Solace of Mind, Recreati-
on of Spirit, or Content, I have
my end, and shall rejoyce, and
think my Time well spent ; O-
therwise I shall be troubled that
there is Nothing worthy your
Acceptance, and only intreat
you to lay down the Book again,
and there is no Harm done be-
tween you, and an Artist's
Friend,

W. G.



T H E
Anglers Delight.

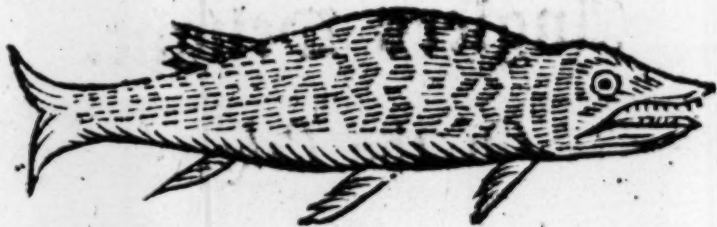
Of the *Pike*,

*And how to Take Him several
 wayes.*



His *Pike* is the King and
 Commander of all
 Fresh - Water *Fish*;
 therefore I begin with
 him first: And he is
 Ravenous, that I my
 self, at *Boately*, near
Oxford, with my
 Trole, took a great Over - grown *Pike*,
 that was within an Inch of a Yard-long;
 and when he came to be opened, he had
 an other large one, of above a Quarter
 of a Yard-long, in his Belly: And I will,
 upon occasion, bring evidence, that the
Pike,

Pike, which was taken out of the others Belly, had a small Bird that is used to lodge in the Reeds, in the Pouch of it: But no more of this. Now for my promise, which was, How to catch this



His feeding is generally of *Roach*, *Dace*, *Gudgeons*, or *Frogs*; but above all, he delighteth most in Fair *Gudgeons*: and where there is not store of small *Fish*, he feeds of a Weed called, *Pike-rell-Weed*.

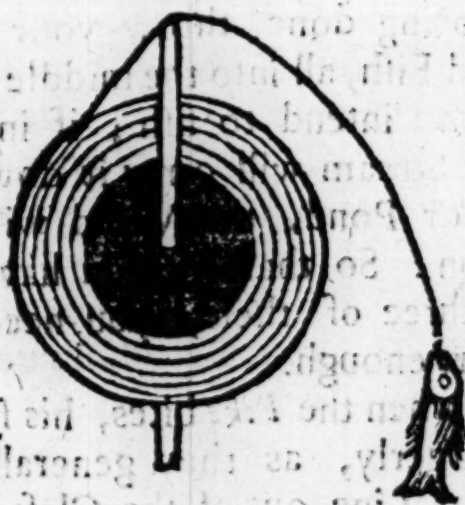
Now your first way of Taking a *Pike*, that I shall teach, is, By a fixed Bait, which is done (if in a standing Water) by having a Line of about twenty Yards long, made fast to a stick, stuck in the ground; and having baited your Hook with a Live *Gudgeon*, *Roach*, or *Dace*, throw it as far as conveniently you can, or in the like-liest place you see for a *Pike*, leaving two Yards, or thereabouts, loose upon the ground by your Peg,

The Anglers Delight.

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Peg, that you may see when your Line is run out strait; at which time be assured, that you have got a *Pike*. You may make use of as many Lines as you please, the more you Lay out, the like-lier you are to have the more Sport.

But if you would take a *Pike* in a River, or any other Moving Water, I will shew you the best way ever invented, which you may perceive by the Figure.



Take a piece of Cork, about little more than a quarter of an Inch thick, cut it round, as you see in the Figure, and then hollow it round the sides, to lap.

The Anglers Delight.

lap or wind your Line in, which must be about twelve Yards; tye it fast round the Cork, and tye a Hook to it, baited with a live Bait, as you see in the Figure: And when you have left so much of the Line, at the end the Fish hung to, as you think will reach half depth of the Water you intend to fish in, catch your Line in the Cleft of the Stick, which must be put through the Cork, as you see the Figure; and this will boy up your Bait, at any distance you place it.

This being done, throw your Cork, Line, and Fish, all into the middle of the Water you intend to fish; if in a River, the Stream will carry it down; in a Mere or Pond, the Wind will give it Motion: So that, if you have but two or three of these, you need not fear Sport enough.

Now, when the *Pike* bites, his snatching so eagerly, as they generally do, pulls your Line out of the Cleft in the Stick, and gives him the whole length of the Line, to pouch your Bait with: This being done, he will run up and down a little, but will presently be tyred; but let him go whither he will,

5 **The Anglers Delight.**

will, you need not fear; For, your Boy will continually be above Water.

Now to take him, you must have a strong piece of three twist Pack-thred, of thirty Yards long, with a Plummert at the end, of a quarter of a Pound weight; which cast beyond the Line, between your Boy and the *Pike*, and let it sink, and it will bring you both Boy and *Pike*: So that, try all the wayes that are, you will find none so pleasant or profitable as this, to take a *Pike*.

Many use to Troule for a *Pike*; but that is so easie, that I shall not spend time in giving Directions: For, it will be far easier learnt, by once going with any Person that understands it, in ones day time, than is possible to be Taught by a Printed Direction. So much for the Taking of him. Now for the Dressing of him.

All *Pikes*, that are not half a Yard long, are fitter to be Fryed or Boyled, than any other way; but for a *Pike* to exceed that Length, either little or more, Roast him in this manner:

First,

First, Open your *Pike* at the Gills, and if need be, give a little cutt towards his Belly; out of these take his Guts, but keep his Liver, which you are to shred very small with Tyme, Sweet-Marjerome, and a little Winter-Savory; to these put some Pickled Oysters, and some *Anchovies*, two or three of both, the last whole, (for the *Anchovies* will melt, and the *Oysters* should not); to these add a Pound of Sweet-Butter, which you are to mix with the Herbs that are shred; and let them all be well Salted: those being mixed with a Blade or two of Mace, must be put into the *Pike's* Belly, and then his Belly sowed up so close, that, if possible, it may keep all the Butter in his Belly. Take not off his Scales: Then you are to thrust the Spit through his Mouth, out at the Tayle: And then with five or six split Stixs, or very thin Lathes, with a good quantity of Filliting. These Lathes are to be tyed round about the *Pikes* Belly, from his Head to his Tayle, and the Tape tyed something thick to prevent his breaking or falling from off the Spit. Let him be Roasted very leasurely, and often

often Basted with Claret VVine, and *Anchovies*, and Butter, mixt together; and also, with what Moysture falls from him into the Pan.

VVhen you have Roasted him sufficiently, you are to hold under him, (when you unwind, or cutt the Tape that tyes him) such a Dish as you intend to eat him out of, and let him fall into it, with the Sauce which is Roasted in his Belly; and by this means the *Pike* will be kept unbroken, and compleat. Then, to the Sauce which was within, and also in the Pan, you are to add a fit Quantity of good Butter, and to squeeze the Juyce of three or four Oranges: Lastly, You may either put into the *Pike*, with the *Oysters*, two Cloves of Garlick, and take it whole out, when the *Pike* is cutt off the Spit; or, to give the Sauce a Hogo, let the Dish (into which you let the *Pike* fall) be rubbed with it. The using, or not using of this Garlick, is left to your Discretion.

E. H.

*So much of the Taking of a Pike,
and the Best way of Dressing of him.*

*I shall now come to the way
of Fishing for, and Dressing of a
T R O U T.*

Of the Trout.

*The Nature of His Breed-
ing, and the Place of His
Haunts; and How to
take Him either with
Worm, Minnow, or
Fly.*

HE is an Excellent *Fish*, and high-
ly admired by all People, in all
Nations. He hath some-thing of
the Nature of Venison, being so like to
a *Buck*, that he comes - in, and goes
out of Season, even as the *Stag* and
Buck do.

He

The Anglers Delight.

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He may claym Place of all Fresh-Water *Fish*, for Precedency, and Daintiness of Taste; for, the most Curious Palats, when he hath been in Season, have admired him.

He is at his Perfection in *May*, and doth Decline, as before, with the *Buck*.

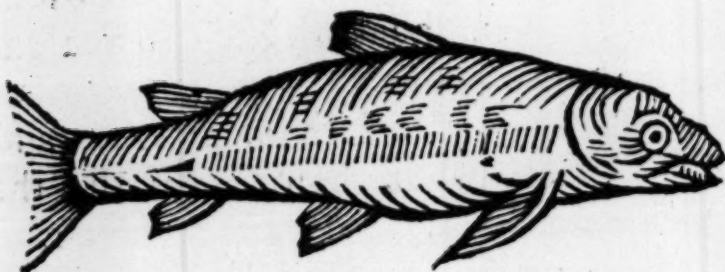
He Spawn's generally about *October*, or *November*.

His Haunts are in gravelly clear *Rivers*, in the most Shady Places. He delights much near *Wires*, and *Flud-gates*, and any Falls of *Waters*.

His Baits are, usually, that he is Caught with, a *Worm*, or a *Minnow*, or else with a *Flye*, viz. either Natural; or Artificial *Flye*.

First of *Worms*; there are many, as Earth-*Worms*; others that are bred of Plants, as the Dug'd-*Worm*; others of Excrements, or in the Bodies of Creatures, as the *Maggot*, or *Gentle*, &c. But of all these, the *Dew*, or *Lob-Worm*, and the *Brandling*, are the best for a *Trout*.

And if you would catch so large a
Trout as this,



take the *Lob-Worme*. And your best way is to put them to some *Mosse*, till they are poor, by cleansing themselves; and then, by giving them the *Yolk* of an *Egg*, they will become lively, and fit for use: But if you are straitned for *VVorms*, squeeze some *VVall-nut Tree-l* leaves in water, which poured upon the ground, will make them rise out of hand.

Now to Bait your *Hook* neatly, that it may *Trole* or *Runn* upon the *Ground*, without *Tangling*, or *Catching* against any *Sticks*, *Gravel*, or *Weeds*, observe:

If you have a big *Lob-Worme*, put your *Hook* into it, some-what above the middle, and out again, a little below the middle; having so done, draw your

your Worme above the Arming of your Hook. But note, That at the entring of your Hook, it must not be at the Head-end of the Worme; because the Point of your Hook may come out towards the Head - end: and having drawn him above the Arming of your Hook, then put the Point of your Hook again into the very Head of the Worme, till it come near the place where the Point of the Hook first came out, and then draw back that part of the Worme that was above the Shank, or Arming of the Hook, and so Fish with it.

But if you mean to Fish with two Worms, which you may do: If one be not big enough, then put the second Worme, before you turn back the Hook's head of the first Worme. So a little trying will make you Expert; and you may Fish without danger of Stopping or Catching upon any gravel, or the like.

For the Minnows.

They may be had easily in *March* or *April*; for then they appear in the
C 3 River,

River, where you may take them at your Pleasure: Of which, for to take a Trout, the middle size are best, and must be so put upon your Hook, that it must turn round, when it is drawn against the Stream; and for the nimbler turning thereof, put it upon a big sized Hook, which put in, at his Mouth, and out at his Gill; then your Hook being drawn two or three Inches beyond his Gill, put it again into his Mouth, and the Point and Beard out at his Tayle; and then tye the Hook, and his Tayle very neatly, with a white Thred or Silk, which will make it the apter to turn quick in the Water: That being done, pull back that part of your Line, which was slack, when you put your hook into the *Minnow*, the second time: So that, it shall fasten the Head; and the Body of the *Minnow* shall be almost straight on your Hook. Then try how it will turn, by drawing it cross the Water, or against the Stream; and so turn the Tayle to your right or left hand, till it turns to please you; if not, you're not likely to catch any thing; if you cannot get a *Minnow*, a *Loach* or a *Stickle-bag*, will serve neer as well;

to fish for the trout in the
night

Take 2 Great worms of equal
length, and put them on your
hook, cast them at a good
distance from you and draw
them to you again on the
top of the water, not letting
them sink & giving him time
to gorge his bait, instead of
the worms you may use black
snails of about the size of
them, they bite them, & sit in
still dops

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well: If you can get an Artificial *Minnow* at the Shops, you had best take one with you, lest you fail elsewhere.

As for Flyes,

I think either for *Trout*, or any other *Fish*, that will rise at *Flyes*, those that they rise - at most, that Season when you *Fish* for them, are the best to take them with; and there are so many, that I cannot (for fear of making my little Piece swell beyond its Price) stand to name them.

Now, as to the *Artificial Flyes*, take only this Rule with you; that is, To provide all Colours of Silk, and Feathers, and such things as are convenient for the making of them: and never go about to make one, Artificially, without a Natural one before you, what-ever it is you would imitate: But you had better go, or send, to the *Three Fishes*, over-against the little *North-Door* of *St. Pauls*, in *London*, where you may have them Better and Cheaper, than you can make them: *And so much of the Trout.*

Of the Barbel.

*His Haunts, Baits, and the
Manner of Taking him.*

They are a *Fish*, that love to keep one another Company dearly, and flock together much: They are at worst in *April*, at which time they Spawne; But are not long before they come in Season again.

He loves (all the Summer) the Shallow, and Sharp Streams, and lies lurking under Weeds, and feeds most on Gravel, against a rising Ground; For, he Roots with his Nose like a Hog, and Nests himself in the Gravel.

He loves also such places as *London-Bridge*, or any deep Place, where the Fierceness of the Water, stirs the Gravel; where he will take hold of Moss, or Weeds, that the Water, though never so fierce, is not able to stir him.

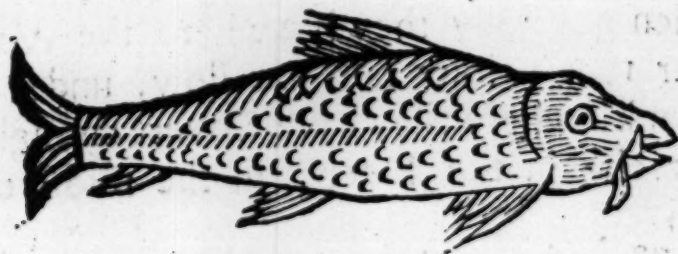
He is mighty Curious in his Baits,
and

and if they be not Sweet and Clean, he will not touch them; therefore you must have your Wormes well scoured with Mosse, and he will bite at a well-scoured Lob-worme, as boldly, as at any Bait whatsoever: But your best way will be, to Bait the Place where you intend to Fish for them, with some Lob - Wormes, cutt to pieces, a night or two before you go to Fish.

You cannot Bait too much; nor well Fish too early, or late, for him.

Gentiles are also a good Bait for him; but then they must not be scoured. Many use Cheese, which is also a good Bait.

He is a very fine *Fish*, to look on; but not so good as he seems to be.



So much of the Barbel.

Of the Cheven, or Chub.

*His Haunts, Baits, and
Manner of Taking him ;
as also, The best way of
Dressing him.*

THE Chubs or Chevens, (in hot Weather) lye playing together, under the Shade of Willows; or Weeds ; and when the Sun shines not, then generally they lye where the Water runs neither fast nor slow, under a Bank, where they have Covert enough, or else in the Deep, in the midst of Rivers.

They delight in *Grass-Hoppers, Snails, Paste, or Cheese*, of which I shall give you an account, when you come to my *Method of Hackney Fish*. I shall only here give you Directions, how you may,

may, the best way, Dresse this *Chub*, or *Cheven*, viz.

First, scale him, and then wash him clean, and take out his Guts ; and to that end, make the Hole as little, and as near to his Gills as you can possibly ; and especially make clean his Throat from the Grasse, and VVeeds, that are usually in it (for else if that be not clean, it will make him tast mighty Sowr) ; having so done, put some Sweet Herbs into his Belly, and then tye him with two or three Splinters to a Spit, and Roast him, basted often with Vinegar ; or rather Verjuce and Butter, with good store of Salt mixed with it ; *And so much of the Chub, or Cheven.*

Of

Of the Carp.

*His Haunts, Baits, and
Way to Fish for him, and
to Dresse him.*

Now if you have a mind to Catch
this *Carp*, that is so Cunning, and
Difficult to be Caught ;




First, You must expect to have your
Patience sufficiently tyred, if you Fish
for a *River-Carp* ; and like-wise in some
Ponds too : If you intend to do any
good with him, you must be at him ei-
ther early or late ; For, they will not
Bite

bite in the middle of the day. You must (if you fish in a Pond for a *Carp*) first, throw in Blood and Grains, or the like, to bring them to the place where you would Fish; and then some of the same Bait which you intend to Angle with.

The *Carp* bites either at Worms or Paste.

The blew-Marsh or Medow-Worm, is best for him. When he is in the Humour, he will some-times bite at a large Gentle: And for Pastes, there are more sorts, than there are sorts of Fishes; but sweet-Pastes are best, that are made either with Sugar or Honey: Which (that you may the better beguile him, he being so cunning) should be thrown where you intend to Fish, an hour or two before you undertake your skill with your Angle-Rod: And your best Bait is made of the Flesh of a *Rabbit*, *Kitling*, cutt small; and Bean-Flower: and if that may not be gotten, other Flower; mix them together, and put thereto either Honey, or Sugar; and beat them together in a Mortar, some-time working them in your Hands, being

being very clean, and make it into a Ball or two, as you think fittest for your use.

If you Fish for a Carp with Gentles, put upon your Hook a small piece of Scarlet about this bigness , it being soaked in Oyle of *Peter*, or *Rock-Oyle*, and you are like-lier to Kill this cunning Fish this way, than by any other: But still, as you are Fishing, Chew a little Bread in your Mouth, and cast it into the Place where you fish.

To Dresse a Carp.

If you can take him alive, scove him, and rub him clean with VVater and Salt: But scale him not then. Open him, and put him, with his Blood, and Liver (which you must save when you open him) into a small Pot or Kettle. Then take Sweet-Marjerome, Tyme, and Parsley, of each half a handful; A Sprig of Rose-Mary, and another of Savory; bind them in two or three small bundles, and put them to your *Carp*, with four or five whole Onions, twenty Pickled Oysters, and three Anchovies; Then put upon the *Carp* as
much

much Claret as will cover him; and season your Claret well with Salt, Cloves, and Mace, and the Rinds of Oranges and Lemmons. Cover your Pot, and set it on a quick Fire, till it be sufficiently boyled: then take out the *Carp*, and lay it with the Broth into the Dish, and pour upon it a quarter of a Pound of Fresh Butter, melted, and beaten with half a dozen Spoonfuls of Broth, the Yolkes of two or three Eggs, and some of the Herbs shred. Garnish your Dish with Lemmons, and so Serve it up.

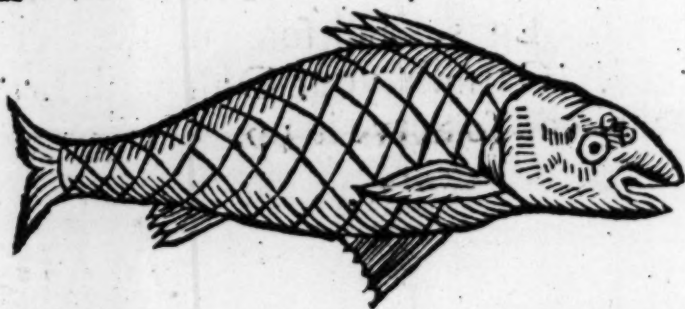
J. H.

So much of the Carp.

Of

Of the *Bream*,
And how to Take him.

TO take this *Fish*, called the *Bream*,



observe, That *Breams* do most of all love *Ponds*, and *Meres*; but the chiefest way to Take them, is; first, Get as big a *Red - Worm* as you can find without a knot: Get a pint of them, or more, in an Evening, in a Garden, after a Showr of Rain; and put them, with clean Moss, well washed, pick'd, & the Water squeezed out of the Moss, as dry as you can, into an Earthen-Pot; and change the Moss for three or four dayes, for three weeks,


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weeks, or a month together; and then your Baits will be in a good condition.

Having your Baits ready, get your Tackling in this manner; Take three long Angling - Rods, and as many, and more Silk - Lines, and as many large Goose-, or rather Swan - Quill - Floats; Then take a piece of Lead made thus  and fasten them to the lower end of your Lines: Then fasten your Link - Hook also to the Lead; and to the end of your Line: Let there be about a foot, or ten inches, between the Lead and the Hook, (but be sure the Lead be heavy enough to sink the Float or Quills under-water, and not the Quill to bear up the Lead); and the Link, next your Hook, must be smaller than the rest of your Line; if you dare venture for fear of a *Pike*, or *Pearch*.

Now, the Worm being well baited, it will crawle up and down, as far as the Lead will give it leave; which much enticeth the *Fish* to bite without Suspition.

Your Float must be (part of it) an Inch above the Water: Then where you think there is *Fish*, Angle: But first note, That you must bait your
C ground

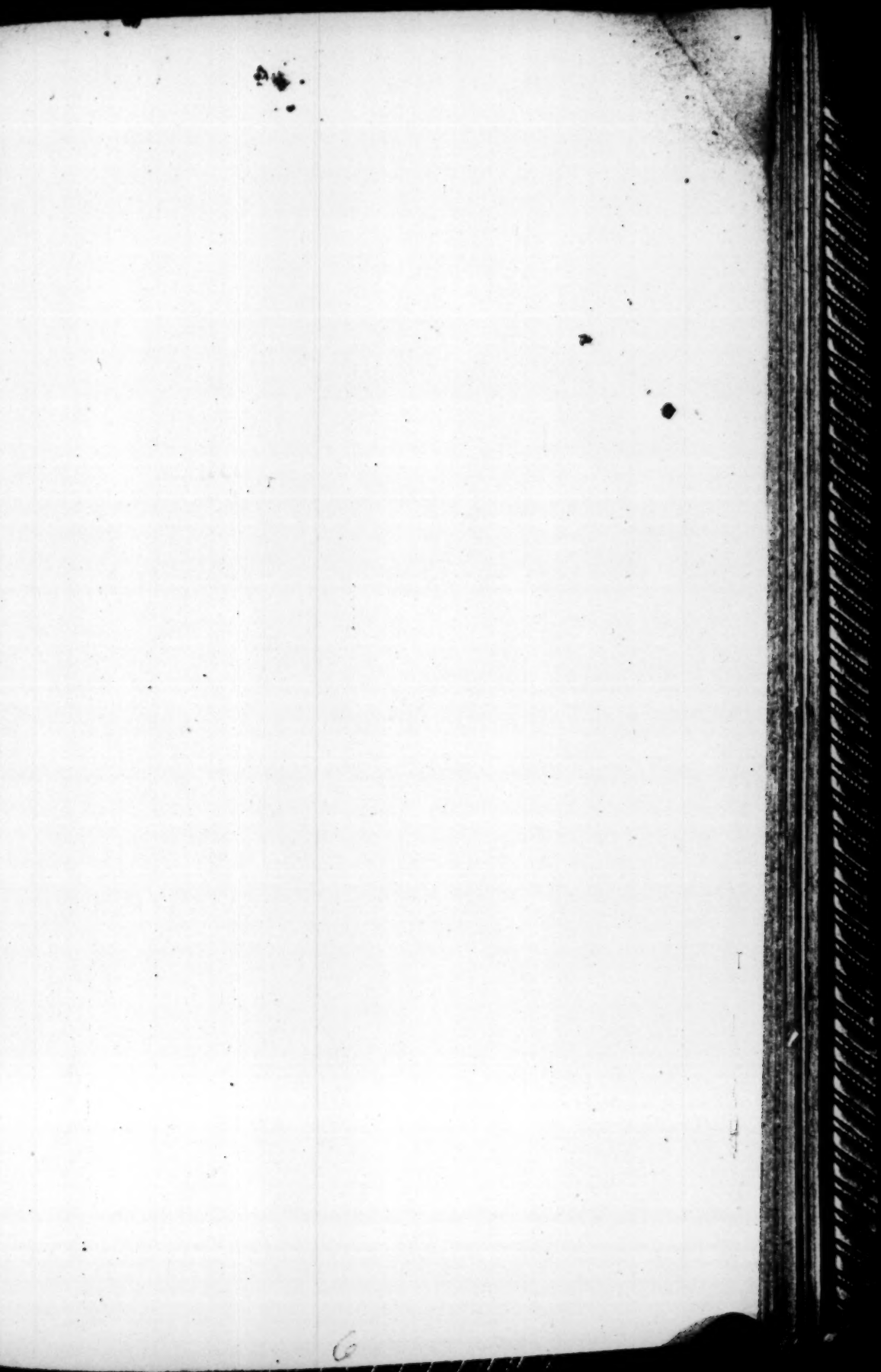
Ground at Night, and Fish about four in the Morning; and without doubt, you will not fail of Sport enough.

So much for Bream - Fishing.



Of

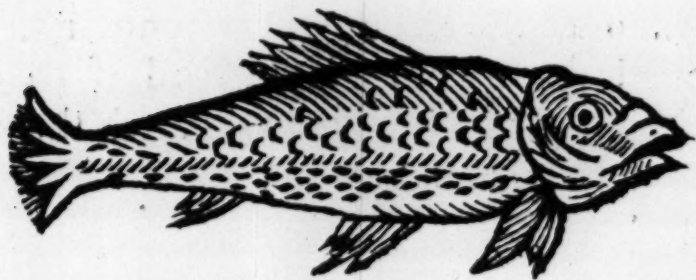




Of the Tench,

And how to Fish for Him.

A *Tench* is the Doctor, as I may say, to all other *Fishes*; and delighteth more in *Ponds*, and *Pits*, than in *Rivers*. And if you will Catch this *Tench*,



be sure, first, where-ever you *Angle*, to throw in some sweet *Ground-bait*: and know, that his *Biting-time* is about nine in the *Morning*: But you may Fish for him from seven till eleven, and probably have good Sport, if there be store in the *Place* where you Fish; and if you follow these *Directions* following, *viz.*

He will bite at Paste made of Brown-Bread, and Honey, or at a *Marsh-Worm*.

He delights much in any Paste, where with Tar is mixed.

He will bite also at a smaller Worm, with his Head nipped off; and at a Cod-VWorm, put on the Hook before.

He onely bites in the three hottest Months in the year; For, in the other nine, he stirs not at all.

VVhatsoever Bait you fish for him with, be sure you dip it in Tar; and be chewing still some of the Crum of a White-Loafe; and be often a casting of it into the Water where you Fish, round about your Float; and if they once begin to bite, you will catch them as fast as you can Lay-in:

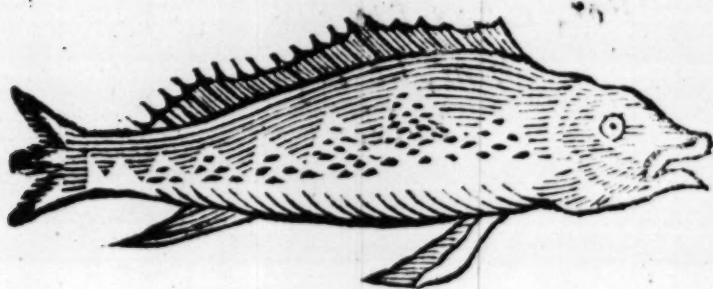
And so much of the Tench.

Of

Of the *Pearch*.

And how to Take Him.

HE delights most in deep places, and in Holes by little Streams, where the small Fish come: And where you must Angle, if you will Catch *Pearch*;



He is a very bold biting *Fish*; and if you light on a Hole, where there be never so many, you may take them all at one Standing.

His Baits are, a *Worm*, a *Minnow*, or a little *Frog*; of which you may find many in Hay-time; and the best *Worm* is a *Brandling*, which you will find in most Dung-hills; but they must be well

scoured in *Mosse*, or *Fennel*; or a *Worm* that lies under a *Cow-Turd*, with a *blewish-head*.

If you Fish for him with a *Minnow-bait*, as I directed you to bait for a *Trout*: Observe to keep your *Minnow*, fishing for a *Pearch*, at mid-water, by the help of a *Cork*; But be sure, what-ever you Fish with, give a *Pearch* time enough in biting; for he will not leave you.

*And this is sufficient for Mr. Pearch;
For, every Boy can Catch
him, he is so
Bold.*

Of

Of *Eeles*,

*And how to Take them;
their Haunts, &c. and
how to Dresse them.*

AN *Eele* is Caught by more Baits than any other Fish; For, they are so greedy, that they will bite at powder'd-Beef; and be taken with a *Lob-Worm*, or a *Garden-Worm*; with a *Minnow*, or Gut of a *Hen, Chicken*, or the Guts of any *Fish*: But the *Eele* may be (especially) taken with a very little *Lamprey*; but some call it a *Pride*: and may (in the hot Months) be found in the River *Thames*.

Now an *Eele* never (except it be by chance) stirs in the day-time; and therefore, are usually Caught in the night, by laying a Linc, with a many Hooks to it, cross a *River* or *Pond*; baited with some of the afore-said Baits: But these are Things so common, that it is not worth while to write

Of. But there is a very pretty way to take them, which is called *Snigling*, which is thus; Observe your time (which must be in a hot Summers-day) when the Water is lowest, you may take a strong small hook, tyed to a small strong Line, about a yard long: And then (because that the *Eeles* hide themselves under Board - Planks, about *Flood-gates*, or *Wires*, or *Mills*, or in Holes in the *River-Banks*,) you may put into one of these Holes, or between any Boards about a Mill, or under any great Stone, or Plank, or any Place where you think an *Eel* may hide, or shelter her self) there (by the help of a short Stick) put-in your Bait; but leisurely, and as far as you can conveniently; And if there be an *Eel* there, he will certainly gorge up your Bait; and you need not doubt to have him, if you pull him not out too soon, but by degrees: And see, here he comes.



How

How to Dresse this Eele.

First, Wash him in Water and Salt, and then pull off his skin, below his Rent, or Navel, and not much farther: Having done that, take out his Guts as clean as you can; but wash him not. Then give him three or four Scotches with a Knife; and put into his Belly, & into these Scotches, Sweet-Herbs, and *Anchovies*, and a little grated *Nutmeg*; and your Herbs, and *Anchovies* must also be cutt very small, and mixed with good Butter and Salt. Having done this, then pull his skin over all but his Head, which you must cutt off. By the reason you may tye the skin over the end where his Head grew, it must needs keep all his Moysture within his Skin.

Then tye him to a Spit, with Tape or Pack-thred, and Roast him leasurely; and baste him with Water and Salt, till his skin breaks: And then with Better, having Roasted him enough, let what was put into his Belly, and what he dropt, be his Sawce: *And so far of Eeles.*

F I N I S.

THE
METHOD
OF
FISHING
IN
HACKNEY - RIVER;

WITH THE
Names of all the best STANDS
There; and the manner of Making
the best TACKLING to Fish There,
or in any *Pond*, or *River*, whatso-
ever.

By *WILLIAM GILBERT*, Gent.

L O N D O N:

Printed by T. M. for W. Birch, at the
Sign of the *Peacock*, at the Lower-
end of *Cheap-side*, 1676.

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T H E

Anglers Delight:

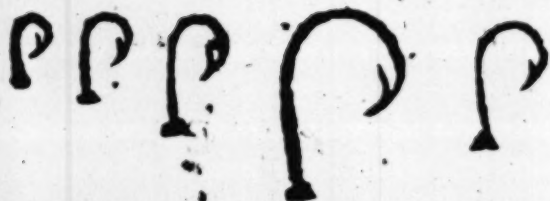
O R, T H E

Method of Fishing in *Hack-*
ney = River.

Of making the *Tackle.*

F*irst*, You must be provided with a good *Angle-Rod*, of at least four Yards, when it is at the shortest; which must be Taper all the way: And to take in so many pieces, that you may make it of what length you please. Then you must go,
and

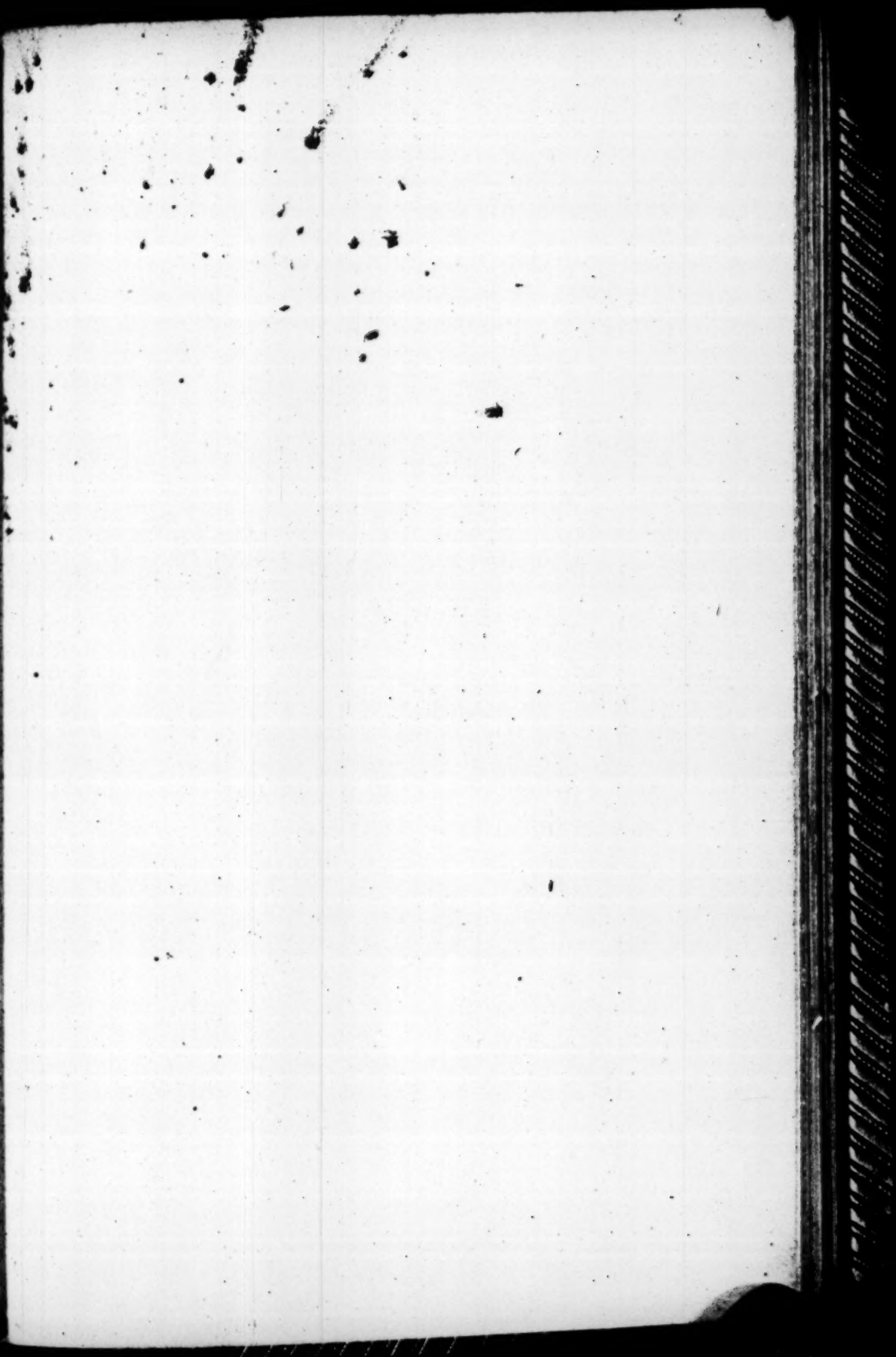
and buy some Hooks, of all these sizes, viz.



The	Black, or Gudgeon.	Roach, or Dace.	Roach.	Pearch, or Barbel.	Chub.
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Next, You must be provided with excellent strong, round, long, and white or gray Stone-Horse-Hair; Silk to whip your Hooks with, and Wax to wax the Silk.

Then must you have *Swans*, and *Goose* - quill - Floats, of all sizes; And for *Chub* - Lines, or *Barbel* - Lines, you may buy them Cheaper of Silk and Hair, than you can make them: But for Hair - Lines, you will not meet with any to be sold, that you can do any good with, in *Hackney-River*: Therefore, being thus provided, begin to make (first) a Line for the *Chub*, or *Cheven*; putting eight Hairs in the first Link next your Rod; and so make it Taper (by leaving out a Hair every other Link) till you have made it; when it comes to the last, to be but four or five Hairs at the



the bottom; to which, tye such a Hook as is before described for the *Chub*.

Next, You must put on a Float, one of the largest you have; and Lead, in manner following: So that Line, Float, Lead, Hook, and all (being fixed together) will be thus

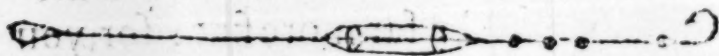


Now, for your *Roach*, and *Dace*-lines, they must be far more fine; for, you must not (by any means) exceed above one Hair, at, or next the *Hook*, or two at the most; for, if you do, where you take one *Fish*, they that *Fish* with a single Hair, will catch half a dozen: And observe, that, be it for what *Fish* you will, the finer you *Fish*, the more, and larger *Fish* you will Catch. But you must never be without your Landing-Hook, or Landing-Net.

You may for *Roaches*, put three hairs next your Rod, and two about the middle; but at the bottom only one: And these Lines ought to be a yard, or a half-yard shorter than your Rods, for
your

4 The Method of Fishing

your conveniency of striking your Fish: And you must fit them with three sizes of Float, though you have *Hair* at the Hook; that is to say, the larger Floated Line for swift Streams, the middling size for Streams that run slow, and the smallest of all, which ought to be of a *Duck's Quill*: for those which scarce move at all, you must leaden them with small Shot, eight Inches from the Hook; and then you will find this Line to be thus Compleat,



When you have two or three of a sort of these Lines, and Shots, and Floates, Links, Hooks, and Supplies for every thing that you can possibly use; then go to Mother *Gibert's*, at the *Flower-de-Luce* at *Clapton*, near *Hackney*. and whilst you are drinking of a Pot *Ale*, bid the *Maid* make you two or three *Peny-worth* of *Ground-Bait*, and some *Paste* (which they do very neatly, and well); and observing of them, you will know how to make it

it your self for any other Place: which is too tedious here to Insert.

Then go down to *Cunnis-Hole*, or else *Maries-Hole*; where pull out your Tackle, and Fish thereabouts; First, Plumming your Ground exactly, that your *Paste* may swim within half an Inch of the bottom.

The Plummets must be made of Lead, with a Pin in them, after this man-

ner,  some bigger,

and some lesser, according to the size of your Line: And be sure that you find your Ground even at the bottom; and if it be between two little Ascents, the Place is the better.

Then seeing your Float swim, according as you would have it, you must (in that very Place) throw in some of your Ground-Bait; and if it be in a Stream, you must knead a little Pibble Stone, into some of your Ground-Bait, in the fashion of a Ball, of this size; and that will sink it to the bottom, which otherwise the Water would carry away: And when you have thrown in five



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or

or six of these Balls, you may Fish there.

The more you are out of sight the better; and you must be sure that you put not a bigger Bait upon the Point of your Hook, of your *Red-Paste*, than this size, viz. ●; For, if you do, the Fish will bob & bob at it, and make you think you have a Bite, when you have not.

Now, you must observe, That your Float swim just over the Place, where your *Ground-Bait* lies; and then observing (with a diligent and quick Eye) the first Motion of your Float, that then you strike gently; and, according as as you find the weight of the Fish you have hold of, to play him: You need not doubt of Sport enough, following but these Directions.

There is an excellent *Stand*, in the second *Meddow*, on the left-hand, beyond the *Ferry*, under a *Willow-Tree*; in the midst of the *Meddow*, by the Water-side.

But in my former Piece (where I did speak of the *Chub*), I did promise that I would give farther Directions for the Taking of him; So that, now, I intend to perform it. And now, when you have filled your Basket of *Roach*, and *Dace*; or else the Wind is so high, that you

you cannot well Angle for them, or that you find they will not bite; then I would have you try this way (which I am going about to teach you) to Take a *Chub*: And first, observe, That here are large ones in *Hackney*; and therefore, provide you strong Silks, and Hair Lines, with your *Swan's* - Quill-Floats, as was before directed: And walk either up or down the River, till you see a Place clear from Weeds, that you can swim your Float half a score yards without danger of Entangling: But if you knew the place before, it would be better; for fear your coming too near the Water should fright away the *Chubs*, that may, peradventure, be there: But this must be in such a Place as I told you before (in my Discourse of the *Chub* or *Cheven*); where the *Chub*, or *Cheven's* Haunts are.

Then must you keep as much out of sight as you can, that you can but just see the Top of your Float swim; And having baited your Hook with a Pellet

of *Paste* thus big , you must first

throw in a Ball of your Ground-bait, about

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as big as a Walnut without a stone in it, a little broken between your Fingers; and then follow it with your baited Hook, and it is very likely you will have a Fish within eight or ten Swims, or else there is none there. But trying two or three likely Places, you need not doubt of having a good *Chub*, or *Cheven*. If you fail in your Expectation of *Chub - Fishing*, then be upon the Drable for a *Barbel*, which is in this nature: You must have a strong Line, of about six yards long of Hair and Silk; which must be put (before you fasten it to your Rod) through a piece of Lead thus



that it may slip to and fro, if any thing bite at it; and that the Water may move it upon the Ground, which will entice the *Barbel* to bite without Suspicion of Danger: And being baited with a good *Lob - Worm*, it is not much to be questioned, but you will Catch a *Barbel*.

How

How to Make the Ground-Bait.

NOW, by reason that some People in the Country may be ignorant of the way of Making this *Ground-Bait*, I thought meet to let such know, that it is made by cutting a two-penny, or three penny Loafe (according to the quantity you would make) into Slices, and lay them in soake into a Platter of fair Water; which, being soaked half a quarter of an Hour, powr the Water from it; and with Bran, make the Bread up into a Stiffe *Paste*; and then make that *Paste* up into two or three large Balls for your use; which you must make use of according to my former Directions. But note, If you Fish in a *Pond* you need not put Stones into your Bait, but rather Crumble it.

To make Paste.

THis is made by the cutting off, of the Crust of a White-Loafe, that is two or three dayes old; and holding it in your hands, being clean washed, about two Minutes in fair Water till it be soaked; then squeeze out the Water: and (with a little Pains in working of it in your hands) it will come to be a very stiffe *Paste*, and hang mightily upon the Hook without washing off. You may colour it with a little red Lead, either more or less, according as you find it most agreeable to the colour of the Water where you Fish.

There are many sorts of *Pastes*; but I esteem this the best for any Fish, excepting a *Carp*; for, they love sweet *Pastes* best, as those made of *Bean-Flower*, *Honey*, &c.

I might say more, but I think this sufficient; only letting you know, that if you would be set-out like a *Fisher-man*, as you ought to be: Then, when-ever
you

you go out to Fish, fail not to have with you, viz.

A good Coat for all Weathers.

An *Apron* to put your *Ground - Bait*, *Stones*, and *Paste* in.

A Basket to put your *Fish* in.

A neat *Rod* of about four Foot long, in several pieces, one within another.

Two or three *Lines* fitted up, of all Sorts.

Spare *Hooks*, *Links*, *Floats*, *Silk*, *Wax*, *Plummets*, *Caps*, *Floats*, and a *Landing - Nest*, &c.

And if you have a Boy to go along with you, a good *Neats - Tongue*, and a Bottle of *Canary* should not be wanting: To the Enjoyment of which I leave You.

. F I N I S .